

# Duluth Police Department School Resource Officer Newsletter



Thank you for taking the time to read through our newsletter-style periodic update on the collaborative effort between the Duluth Police Department and ISD 709 to provide the safest learning environment possible for the more than 8,500 students that attend Duluth Public Schools. This newsletter will highlight the work your SROs do daily, the training they attend, some statistics, and more!

The SROs that do this great work are so much more than the uniform they wear. These Officers are coaches, mentors, counselors, social workers, friends, and role models for so many students. It is our privilege to have them work with students, families, School District Administration, Principals, Assistant Principals, Deans of Students, Integration Specialists, Counselors, School Social Workers, and other staff to really connect with the youngest members of our community and build lasting relationships. Through those relationships, we strive to do our part in creating a safe, fun, and exciting place for them to grow!

The enforcement side of this particular job is extremely small in comparison to other areas of policing. We address this part of our job with thoughtful consideration and collaboration with ISD 709 staff and community partners, with the hope of decreased recidivism. It is also important that we consider the impact these crimes have on the victims and their ability to be part of a safe, comfortable learning environment.

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# 2022-23 STATS

**862-** Counseling or Mentoring Sessions

**30,300-** Positive Student Interactions

**9,705-** Positive Staff Interactions

**101-** Elementary School Visits

**348-** Requests to Visit Classrooms

**250-** De-escalation Opportunities

**110-** After School Events Attended

**2-** ISD 709 Trainings

-Restorative Practices Circle Training (All SROs and Supervisor), Reunification Training.

## **Enforcement Actions** – 34

(Assaults, Disorderly Conduct- Fighting, and Narcotic related)

## **Victims**

Race of Victim\*

American Indian-3

Black-4

White-2

Total-8

\*victims of assault and disorderly conduct offenses only (drug and other offenses not included)

**0.1% of interactions with students resulted in enforcement.**

**\*\*All enforcement decisions were discussed and agreed upon by school administration and the SRO.**

**\*\*All statistics provided are from 9/6/22-6/8/23.**

## Daily notes from your School Resource Officers

- From my days working in the patrol district near the school and now working in the school, I have developed good relationships with the community who lives near the school. The neighbors have my cell phone number and have called when they have had problems with the kids in their yards. Today the neighbors called, stating after school some of the kids went up on a deck and took a package. Working with the youth center, school, and neighbors, I was able to get return the package that was taken from the deck.
- **I handled a threat case that took place over the weekend downtown. The student/victim wanted to speak with the SRO about this rather than call 911.**
- There was a fight at school, school officials wanted citation issued. The individual who was involved in the fight had received citations before and continues to have unacceptable behavior at school.
- **In collaboration with a dean of students and Lt. Zwak, we got a likely shortfall of funds for a field trip covered by a community group.**
- I spent time with a male student in the Integration Specialist's Office and took him to kids closet to get some summer t-shirts, shorts and a new backpack.
- **We took the Code 4 bus to Myers-Wilkins Elementary School and handed out ice cream to all the classes and faculty. They all had a good time!**
- I returned to the school after a week of being gone for training.... lots of students asking where I was at and hoping that I hadn't quit.



## 2022-2023 School Year Re-Cap

As the 2022-2023 school year has come to an end, thank you! Thank you to the students, staff, and parents for the support and trust as we worked to provide the safest environment for the students and staff. Recent surveys show overwhelming support for our SROs and the SRO Program and we couldn't be happier to know we are heading in the right direction! Your SROs are a well-trained, compassionate group of Officers that truly care about the work they do.

As you can see from the photos above, we had a fun year interacting and building relationships with kiddos across the city. They have a lot of fun with their work and it shows! They spent time handing out ice cream, attending sporting events, and organizing the annual "School Patrol Party" (just to mention a few) ... all of which will have a significant positive impact on the kiddos for years to come.

In addition to community engagement, they have spent time investigating school threats, weapon calls, assaults, disorderly conducts, and other crimes that have a direct impact on safety and the perception of safety in your schools. Many times, they worked with outside partners to navigate these issues. This included working with youth centers, probation, St. Louis County Attorney's Office and even the FBI for some of the threat related investigations.

The SROs have been coaches and mentors along the way as well, probably more than anything with 862 counseling or mentoring sessions. There are countless instances of your SROs helping students navigate tough times in their lives. Whether it was sports, family, school, or job related... your SROs took the time to offer an open ear, advice, perspective, and life experience to the students seeking it. To the students who sought out your SRO, thank you... we are here for you and grateful for your trust.

As the year has ended and we look forward to the next, I am hopeful that we can continue this work of keeping the future of this community safe as they learn and grow from elementary kiddos into young adults at Denfeld and East High Schools. It is our absolute pleasure to watch the students grow from year to year, and to be a part of that.

As the year comes to an end there is also a BIG change at Lincoln Park Middle School. SRO Joel Hopps has served his last year as SRO for that school. He will be greatly missed by the students, parents and staff as he built quite the legacy in his time there! Officer Hopps is now Investigator Hopps and is serving the City of Duluth in our Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) Unit. Stay tuned for information on the new LPMS SRO!

## Did You Know?

Did you know that the SROs do not get a summer break? The SROs transition to Bike Patrol for the summer months. They spend the majority of time patrolling the Canal Park and Lake Walk areas. This affords some great community engagement opportunities along the way.

Check out SROs Stauber and Hanna!!

